



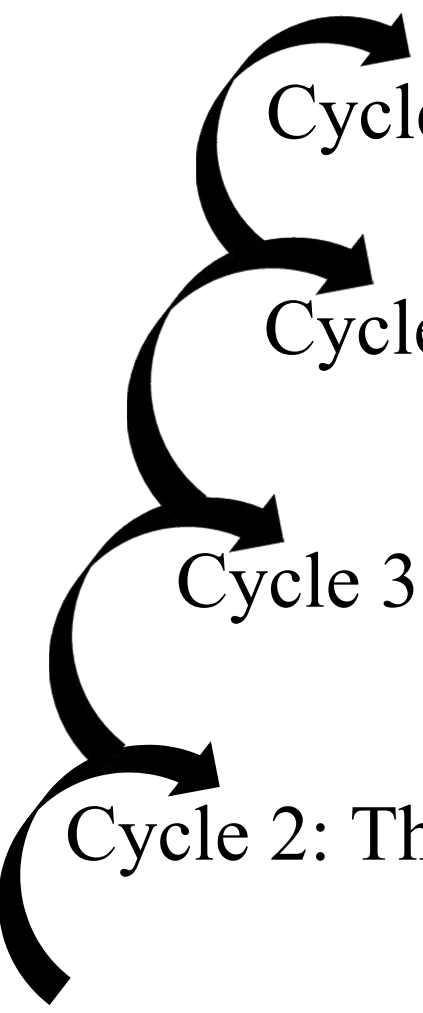
# The Book of Romans

## How to be Right with God

(Romans 9:19-29 pt. 1)

## Context:

- The 5 cycles of Paul's persuasive argument concerning justification.
- The cycle argument follows this format:
  - The cycle (theme) presented
  - The hypophora argumentation (Q and A)



Cycle 5: The Justification of the Nation Israel 9:1-11:32

Cycle 4: The Ramifications of Justification 8:1-39

Cycle 3: The Benefits of Justification 5:1-7:25

Cycle 2: The Only Means Of Justification 3:21-4:25

Cycle 1: The Universal Need For Justification 1:18-3:20

# The Justification of the Nation Israel:

## Cycle 5: Hypophora #1 (9:14-18)

*“Does the Justifier act unjustly with Israel?”*

# Outline:

1. A misguided question v. 19
2. A firm rebuke v. 20
3. A few illustrations from Hebrew Scripture vv. 21-29

## 1- A misguided question v. 19

### Observations:

- “you will say to me” (cf. Diatribe argument in 1 Cor. 15:36; Jas. 2:20)
- 2 questions:
  - 1- “why does He still find fault”  
(lit. why still their fault?)
  - 2- “For who has resisted His will” (lit. Who has been resisting)

## 1- A misguided question v. 19

### **Explanation:**

- If God has hardened Israel why is Israel to blame?
- They are resisting His will yes... but isn't it because they have been hardened?
- The accusation is that God is not operating in justice with Israel.

# Outline:

1. A misguided question v. 19
2. A firm rebuke v. 20
3. A few illustrations from Hebrew Scripture vv. 21-29



## 2- A firm rebuke v. 20

### Observations:

- “but indeed” NKJV
- “on the contrary” NASB
- “O man” (this is the formulaic response in a diatribe argument)
- “who are you to reply against God?”
- “will the thing formed say to him who formed it,  
“why have you made me like this?”

## 2- A firm rebuke v. 20

### Explanation:

- The question: “why have you made me like this?” gives us insight into what Paul is arguing against. The hypothetical opponent is arguing that God is unjust to harden the nation of Israel. Paul’s response is to emphasize the Creator-creature distinction.
- Cf. Job 38

# Outline:

1. A misguided question v. 19
2. A firm rebuke v. 20
3. A few illustrations from Hebrew Scripture vv. 21-29

### 3- A few illustrations from Hebrew Scripture vv. 21-29

#### **Observations:**

- Jeremiah and the potter vv. 21-24
- Hosea and unfaithful Israel vv. 25-26
- Isaiah's remnant promise vv. 27-29

### 3- A few illustrations from Hebrew Scripture vv. 21-29

#### **Observations:**

- Jeremiah and the potter vv. 21-24

# Observations

### 3- A few illustrations from Hebrew Scripture vv. 21-29

#### **Observations: Jeremiah 18:1-17**

- The context of Jer. 18

- Deut. 28-30
- Babylonian captivity
- God wants to illustrate to Jeremiah what He is doing with Israel vv. 1-2
- What Jeremiah sees vv. 3-4
- God explains the illustration vv. 5-11

### 3- A few illustrations from Hebrew Scripture vv. 21-29

#### **Observations: Jeremiah 18:1-17**

- Some things to point out:
  - “O house of Israel” v. 5
  - God sets Himself against any nation that does evil.  
(Especially one that is in covenant with Him i.e. Israel)
  - If that nation turns from their evil God turns from His judgment against them (ex. Nineveh)

### 3- A few illustrations from Hebrew Scripture vv. 21-29

#### **Observations: Jeremiah 18:1-17**

- The context of Jer. 18

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- God illustrates to Jeremiah vv. 1-2
- What Jeremiah sees vv. 3-4
- God explains the illustration vv. 5-11
- God's warnings were rejected v. 12
- God's judgment is sure vv. 13-17



## Explanation:

- God used the actions of a potter forming clay to illustrate something to Jeremiah
- Jeremiah witnessed the potter fix the ruined clay by fashioning it into another vessel “as it seemed good to the potter”
- The idea expressed in this action is that while the clay was still malleable the potter could fashion it as he likes. But if it continues to not “cooperate” then the potter may just throw that clay out.
- God explains that if Israel is malleable, they can easily be fixed and fashioned into a new vessel (i.e. returned into the land and back in the position of blessings).

## Explanation:

- If Israel is not malleable, they will be a vessel set for destruction. This is exactly what happened. Interestingly, Israel was in captivity long enough for an entire generation to die off. (has God done this before?)
- Now back in Romans... Paul is using this familiar illustration to illustrate the present situation the NATION of Israel found themselves in. They are set for destruction.
- Yet as was also true in Jeremiah's situation a remnant was spared from this destruction. Paul and the rest of the Jews that trusted in the Messiah are the remnant.

## Explanation:

- Reread Roman 9:20-24.
- “but also of the Gentiles” (is simply saying Gentiles are included as being fashioned as vessels of mercy and thus glory... because they believed in the Messiah)

## Summary:

- Israel was and is being judged because of their disobedience. They are the ruined clay that is set for destruction. The remnant (those that believe) are vessels of mercy. Not only are believing Jews vessels of mercy but Gentiles are as well (though we are not the remnant).
- But the focus of this section is entirely on the nation of Israel.